DEPARTMENT: HOME AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Local Office, Malmesbury, Private Bag X5, 7300
Telephone number (022) 4828240

TO: ALL RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE OFFICERS

14 January 2021

SOLEMNISATION OF MARRIAGES UNDER ADJUSTED ALERT LEVEL 3

1. On 12 January 2021 the minister of Home Affairs, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, released a media statement. In this media statement he indicated, amongst others, services by the Department of Home Affairs that are suspended under adjusted alert level 3.

2. One of the services mentioned as suspended is the solemnisation and registration of marriages. This suspension has incorrectly been interpreted to mean that religious marriage officers not employed by the Department of Home Affairs may also not solemnise marriages under adjusted alert level 3.

3. Please note that religious marriage officers may continue to solemnize marriages. They must however ensure that only the marriage officer, bride, bridegroom and two witnesses are present. They must also ensure that all COVID 19 safety protocols are strictly observed.

4. The requirement that marriage registers must be handed into a Home Affairs office within three days of solemnising a marriage is waived until adjusted lockdown level 3 is lifted. Marriage registers may be kept and handed in to Home Affairs for registration as soon as adjusted alert level 3 is lifted.

GN Kotze
OFFICE MANAGER